

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FAHMY'S PUZZLEMENT

1. IN MY TALK WITH FAHMY YESTERDAY, HE SAID HE WAS THOROUGHLY CONFUSED BY PUBLIC MEDIA REPORTS COMING OUT OF ISRAEL. (EGYPTIANS FOLLOW THESE CLOSELY AND BOTH FAHMY AND THE PRESIDENT RECEIVE A DAILY FILE ON THE SUBJECT.) HAS USG IN FACT ASKED ISRAEL TO PROPOSE A "TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR" AS ISRAELI MEDIA IS SUGGESTING? OR IS THIS A PURELY ISRAELI IDEA? WHICHEVER IT IS, FAHMY NOTED IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE LESS THAN OPTING FOR A FINAL, COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT WHICH BOTH WE AND THE ISRAELIS HAD EARLIER INDICATED SHOULD BE THE NEXT STEP. SO FAR AS "TERMINATION OF STATE OF WAR" IS CONCERNED, FAHMY RECALLED SADAT'S REPEATED POINT AT ASWAN AND ALEXANDRIA THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE TO "NON-BELLIGERENCY" UNTIL THE LAST 20 KILOMETERS OF OCCUPIED SINAI TERRITORY IS BEING DISCUSSED. FAHMY SAID WE SHOULD KNOW THAT THE EGYPTIAN POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED ON THIS POINT.

2. FAHMY ALSO WONDERED ABOUT THE EARLIER RASH OF STORIES OUT OF ISRAEL ABOUT THE JORDANIAN OPTION. IS USG ENCOURAGING THIS? IF SO, HE WANTED TO REMIND US THAT AFTER THE ALGIERS AND RABAT SUMMITS, THE PLO

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HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIANS

AND JORDAN HAD BEEN RELIEVED OF THAT ROLE. HE DID NOT SEE HOW JORDAN COULD SPEAK FOR THE PALESTINIANS WITHOUT AN ARAB SUMMIT DECISION TO REVERSE WHAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AGREED UPON. THE PLO MAY BE EXPECTED TO FIGHT THIS. HE NOTED GOE CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PLO IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK IT AWAY FROM THE SYRIANS. FAHMY BELIEVES HE IS SUCCEEDING ON THIS SCORE.

3. FAHMY ALSO STATED THAT, ON SADAT'S RECENT SAUDI GULF TRIP, THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN TOLD WE HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED TWO NEW PROPOSALS TO THE SYRIANS, WHICH ASAD HAD TURNED DOWN. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHO HAD TOLD SADAT THIS, BUT I INFERRED IT WAS THE SUADIS.

4. FAHMY ASKED IF I COULD GIVE HIM ANY CLARIFICATION ON THE ABOVE POINTS. I TOLD HIM I, TOO, HAD SEEN THE RECENT ISRAELI PUBLIC MEDIA COMMENTARY TO WHICH HE REFERRED, BUT RECALLED YOU HAD EARLIER CAUTIONED HIM THAT A SPATE OF ISRAELI PRESS SPECULATION WAS TO BE EXPECTED. HE SHOULD NOT GIVE ANY UNDUE WEIGHT TO SUCH ISRAELI PUBLIC MEDIA REPORTS. IN A PREVIOUS MESSAGE FROM YOU, SADAT HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT WE WILL WANT TO CONSULT WITH EGYPT FIRST ON ANYTHING WE DECIDE TO DO AFTER STUDYING ANY IDEAS THE ISRAELIS MIGHT INTRODUCE AS A RESULT OF OUR URGINGS ON RABIN. WE INTENDED TO DO JUST THAT, AND I HOPED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM MORE INFORMATION WHEN I RETURN. SO FAR AS THE REPORT OF TWO NEW PROPOSALS TO THE SYRIANS IS CONCERNED, I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH PROPOSALS. FAHMY SAID BOTH HE AND THE PRESIDENT HOPED I WILL COME BACK WITH SOME CLARIFICATIONS OF THESE ISRAELI PUBLIC MEDIA REPORTS. AT THE VERY LEAST, HE OBSERVED, THEY ARE PUZZLING AND LEND THEMSELVES TO UNHELPFUL EGYPTIAN PUBLIC AND PRESS SPECULATION.

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